### Issue:

**FALL 2010 - WINTER 2011** 

# Red Rock CANYC

**Keystone Visitor Guide** 

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#### **NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**

## **Mojave Max**

WELCOME TO MY HABITAT AT RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA! I AM MOJAVE MAX, "SPOKESTORTOISE" FOR ALL THE WILD DESERT TORTOISES, A THREATENED SPECIES IN THE MOJAVE DESERT. I LIVE HERE ALONG WITH SEVEN FEMALE NEIGHBORS.

I am well-adapted to the harsh desert conditions. I am an herbivore and can also store water in my bladder for up to a year. As a reptile, I spend 95 percent of my life living in a burrow (sometimes 10-12 burrows) due to the temperature extremes in the desert. We tortoises can live to be 60-80 years old in the wild and up to 100 years old in a habitat.

The Mojave Max Education Program began the year I was born (1989) as a conservation effort to provide public information and education for the Clark **County Desert Conservation Program.** The program encompasses activities such as the emergence contest when I will wake up in the spring after brumating (hibernating), classroom programs (reaching more than 100,000 students over the years), teacher education workshops and volunteer training programs. The Mojave Max **Emergence Contest is the central** 



Photo: Mojave Max (Gopherus agassizii) lives in his habitat behind the visitor center

element of the education program and all activities support participation in the contest.

Now that the weather is beginning to change to cooler temperatures, I will begin my approximate five-month brumation in my burrow. Though I will be asleep, I still hope you will come and visit my habitat in the back of the visitor center to learn more about my species

at the tortoise exhibit. I also hope that you will come back in the spring to visit the girls and me as we emerge into the springtime warmth!

As I settle down for my long winter's nap, please enjoy the beauty of the fall and winter seasons here at Red Rock Canyon. See you in the spring!

## E0000 License Plate

You've enjoyed your visit to Red Rock and now you may be looking for a take-home memory of the National Conservation Area. If you are a Nevada resident, you have an opportunity to be reminded of your adventure by purchasing a Red Rock Canyon license plate.

The process is easy: go to the nearest Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles with your registration, ID and your old license plates. The charge for the new plate is \$61 with a one-time processing fee of \$5. Your normal renewal period will remain the same and plate renewals will be \$30.

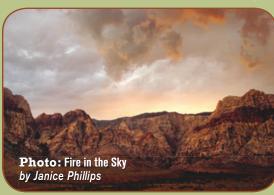
Friends of Red Rock Canyon receives \$25 in revenue for the first year per plate and \$20 for renewals for these stylish license plates. All proceeds from the license sales will be used to support programs and services at Red Rock Canyon.

## **Hours of Operation**

- **Visitor Center**
- 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m
- 13-Mile Scenic Drive OCTOBER
  - **NOVEMBER FEBRUARY** MARCH
  - **APRIL SEPTEMBER** 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- **Red Rock Overlook on State Route 159 and**
- **Red Spring** THROUGH FEBRUARY
  - MARCH 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.



by Jeff Yost

a public land administered by the

Photo: Snow on joshua tree (Yucca brevifolia)

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## Between a Rock and a High Place **Rock Climbing at Red Rock**

WITH MORE THAN 2,000 CLIMBING ROUTES, RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE CLIMBING DESTINATIONS IN THE **UNITED STATES.** 

Climbers from all over the world are drawn by the number and wide variety of routes that are found here. Routes range from short boulder problems to big wall climbs that take two or more days to complete. Multi-pitch routes may have a variety of climbs on each pitch of the route such as chimneys, friction, overhangs, cracks or face climbing. Route names are as varied as the climbs and include Crimson Chrysalis, Epinephrine, Ginger Cracks, Olive Oil and Levitation 29.

**CLIMBING PERMITS** 

- ♦ Late Exit permits (LE) provide an additional three hours of climbing time after the normal closure of the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. These permits are available for the following areas: Angel Food Wall, Ice Box Canyon, Juniper Canyon, Pine Creek Canyon and Oak Creek Canyon. Late exit permits are not issued for sport climbing areas including Calico I, Calico II, Sandstone **Quarry and Willow Springs.**
- Overnight permits (ON) are only available for routes on the following walls: Mt. Wilson (1-2 nights), Levitation Wall (1 night), Rainbow Wall (1-2 nights), Buffalo Wall (1-3 nights), Hidden Wall (1-3 nights) and Bridge Mountain (1 night). Camping is not permitted at the base of any route.

TO OBTAIN A PERMIT, CALL 702-515-5050. You may call up to seven days in advance or as late as the day of your climb. If you call the day of your climb, use a land line. If your message is not clear or is missing information, you will not receive a permit and you may receive a citation. Permits are not issued after 4:30 p.m. To receive a permit, the following information must be included in your message:

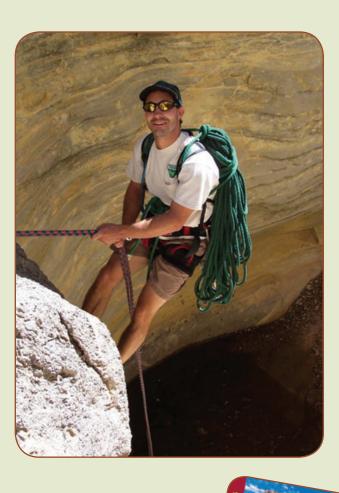
- NAME AND ADDRESS
- TYPE OF PERMIT. LE OR ON AND CLIMBING DATE/S
- VEHICLE PLATE NUMBER AND STATE
- VEHICLE DESCRIPTION
- CLIMBING DESTINATION AND WHERE YOU WILL PARK
- EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME AND PHONE NUMBER

There are two wilderness areas in Red Rock: Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and La Madre Mountain Wilderness. All of the major canyons in Red Rock are in the Rainbow Mountain Wilderness and all of the climbing routes located on White Rock Mountain are within the La Madre Mountain Wilderness. New bolted fixed anchors and/or protection bolts cannot be installed in either wilderness area.

#### **RAIN. RAIN GO AWAY**

The sandstone becomes very brittle when it rains (or is damp from snow) and should not be climbed for at least 24 hours. By allowing the sandstone to dry out, you will avoid breaking hand- and foot-holds and you will not have to worry about gear pulling out during a fall. If you find yourself waiting for the sandstone to dry, you can climb limestone sport crags in Red Rock Canyon or in other areas around Las Vegas.

Additional information is available at the visitor center or by calling (702) 515-5350.



### **Fees and Annual Passes**

RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA BEGAN COLLECTING FEES IN 1998. AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL PASS. WHICH REPLACED THE NATIONAL PARKS PASS, GOLDEN AGE, GOLDEN ACCESS AND GOLDEN EAGLE BEGAN SALES IN 2007, IN ADDITION TO PASSES THAT ARE USED ONLY AT RED ROCK CANYON, OTHER PASSES ARE ACCEPTED:

- **♦ Daily Fee \$7** 
  - Daily pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed
- ♦ Red Rock Annual Support Pass \$30 Yearly pass for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Does not include overnight stays in the developed campground.
- ♦ America the Beautiful Pass \$80 The America the Beautiful pass is an interagency pass that will be honored by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service,

Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

- **♦ America the Beautiful Senior Pass \$10** 
  - one time fee Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens who are 62 and older to national parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management sites. Pass provides 50 percent discount on campground fees.
- **America the Beautiful Access Pass -Free** (obtain from ranger at the visitor center)

Lifetime pass for U.S. citizens with a permanent disability to national parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management sites. Pass provides 50 percent discount on campground fees.

• • RED ROCK CANYON





## Las Vegas Valley Land Sales Fund Improvements at Red Rock

IN 1998, THE SOUTHERN NEVADA PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT WAS PASSED.

This innovative act created a disposal boundary in the Las Vegas Valley that enabled the Bureau of Land Management to dispose of public lands. Funds generated from these sales are used to enhance the quality of life in Southern Nevada for residents and visitors by improving parks, trails and natural areas, supporting conservation initiatives, improving federally-managed facilities, creating habitat conservation plans and acquiring environmentally sensitive lands in Nevada in addition to providing funding for state education and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and its visitors has been the beneficiary of these funds on nine projects.

SIX PROJECTS AT RED ROCK HAVE BEEN COMPLETED:

- RED ROCK FIRE STATION
- UPGRADING EXHIBITS AT THE VISITOR CENTER
- RED SPRING RESTORATION
- FENCING ALONG STATE ROUTE 159 TO KEEP WILD HORSES AND BURROS OFF THE ROADWAY
- ADJUSTING THE COTTONWOOD VALLEY TRAILS NETWORK
- CREATING A NEW VISITOR CENTER AT RED ROCK

#### **PROJECTS UNDERWAY INCLUDE:**

- EXPANDING AND PROVIDING UTILITIES TO THE RED ROCK CAMPGROUND
- CREATING AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN
- UPGRADING THE SCENIC DRIVE AND PAVING A DIRT ROAD

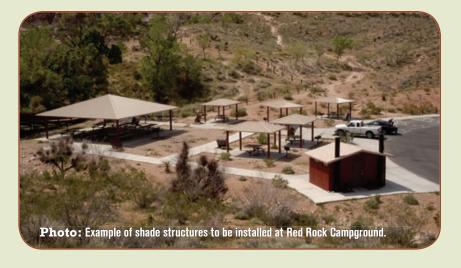
## **Red Rock Campground**

AS THE SUMMER DREW TO A CLOSE, WORK WAS WRAPPING UP ON IMPROVEMENTS AT RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA'S DEVELOPED CAMPGROUND - RED ROCK CAMPGROUND.

The improvements, funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, included shade structures for half the individual camp sites and all group camp sites as well as installation of one double vault toilet for the group site area. The improvements are aimed at improving visitor satisfaction and experience.

Red Rock Campground is located within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area approximately two miles east of the visitor center on State Route 159 (West Charleston Boulevard) and is the only developed campground within the conservation area.

The campground has been in service since February 1999 and an estimated 500,000 people have visited the Red Rock Campground since its opening.



## Fire Ecology in Red Rock Canyon

BURNED LANDSCAPES AREN'T BEAUTIFUL, BUT FIRE IS A PART OF THE NATURAL WORLD, JUST LIKE THE WIND, THE RAIN AND OTHER NATURAL FORCES.

In fact, wildland fire is an essential feature of ecosystems that regenerates some plant communities to provide better forage for wildlife over time. Some plants and animals are adapted to fire and benefit from the changes it brings, but wildland fire is not helpful to all wildlife and plant communities. The Mojave Desert is one ecosystem that is not generally benefited by wildland fire.

Several wildland fires have burned in Red Rock Canyon over the past years, destroying habitat for Mojave Desert plants and wildlife by removing nutrient rich vegetation and shade. Mojave Desert lands burned by wildland fire are more vulnerable to new wildland fires because they become overgrown with invasive annual grasses. Native plants must compete with the invasive annual grasses for water, soil nutrients and sunlight. Invasive annual grasses regenerate more quickly than native



vegetation, creating the potential for new wildland fires and decreasing the ability of native vegetation to become dominate in the plant community.

Rehabilitation efforts including seed and planting native vegetation are ongoing. In addition, monitoring regrowth and weed treatments will continue.

VISITORS TO RED ROCK CANYON CAN HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF NON-NATIVE ANNUAL GRASSES BY FOLLOWING A FEW GUIDELINES FOR RECREATION WITHIN BURNED AREAS:

- Stay on the designated roads and trails. Seeds of invasive grasses and weeds can "catch a ride" in your shoes, socks and car tires. Staying on trails allows the BLM to monitor invasive grasses and weeds and apply treatment to protect the native vegetation.
- Stay out of burned areas. The soil is extremely fragile after a fire has occurred. The roots of the vegetation have lost their integrity and hillsides are more susceptible to erosion. The desert crust that has formed before the fire will slowly recover unless the crust is broken by foot or vehicle traffic.

KEYSTONE VISITOR GUIDE





## **First Creek Canyon Trail**

AS I STARTED OUT CROSSING THE WATERLESS CREEK-BED, MY FIRST IMPRESSION OF THIS HIKE WAS THAT IT WOULD BE BLAND AND DRY.

I became more hopeful when I could see the creek-bed was lined with green willows. After crossing the creek-bed and passing through some willows, I was struck by the inviting presence of the towering buttes that form the canyon walls a mile and a half or so ahead.

This trail is a flat, easily followed dirt and gravel path. Very quickly, I entered an area that was burned in 2006. It is well marked with post and wire fencing to protect the fire rehabilitation efforts. Though the blackened plant life gives a desolate appearance, the presence of many tiny yellow butterflies fluttering through the new plant growth is evidence of life returning to this area.

About halfway to the shade of the canyon, the trail steepens ever so slightly and becomes more rocky, but easily passable. I recommend wearing a good pair of hiking boots because the trail soon becomes sandier and later turns to a mixture of rocks and sand.

I am met with a delightful surprise as I round a bend and crest a short rise in the trail when I see a small evergreen oasis ahead. As I approached this mini-forest, I noted the distinctive buzz and watched the meandering flight of several dragonflies. Soon I heard the chirp of birds and spotted them flitting from tree to tree. As I stepped into the grove, I was treated to the sound of running water. I stepped off the trail toward the flowing water and relished the sights and sounds. I also saw

what appears to be an oriole, hopping through the bushes and stream-side reeds and grasses

Departing the grove, the trail splits allowing a choice of walking along a ridge above the creek or beside the creek-bed to the head of First Creek Canyon. The air turns cooler after entering the canyon and an extra layer of clothing might be needed this time of year if you plan to spend time in the canyon itself. The canyon holds its own set of delights and as I sat gazing upon its beauty, a sudden shadow of movement from the far side revealed a hawk leaving its perch among the rocks. It made a quick pass over the evergreen grove before moving on to soar over the valley floor in search of its afternoon meal.



This article was written by volunteer Greg Nicolas after a hike in November 2007.

## **Red Rock by Car**

IT'S NOT CALLED THE SCENIC DRIVE FOR NOTHING...

So sit back and enjoy the drive. The maximum speed limit on the 13-Mile Scenic Drive is 35 mph and in some sections the speed limit is lower. By not exceeding the posted speed limits, you can enjoy the spectacular scenery while driving at a speed that is safe for you and your fellow motorists, bicyclists, runners and wildlife.

Now once you've followed the speed limit to your favorite turnout, it's time to park. Fortunately parking lots have been created for your convenience; however they do have limits. If the lot remains full, do not create your own parking spot by parking off road on vegetation. These plants are native to

the arid Mojave Desert and can take decades to regrow. You can pick a new spot to visit or reenter the 13-Mile Scenic Drive (your amenity fee is good for a full day).

The upside to following these easy tips is that you are more likely to safely enjoy your visit to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, leaving it undamaged by your activities. The downside is that if visitors don't follow these tips and enjoy the area responsibly, there may not be the spectacular Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area that you remember on your next visit. Note: law enforcement rangers can cite visitors that disregard regulations.

## Fall and Winter Safety Tips

Enjoying Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area to the fullest means enjoying your visit safely. Fall and winter recreation in the Mojave Desert present unique challenges. Being prepared will keep delays and unpleasant experiences to a minimum.

#### Water

Drink at least one gallon (four liters) of water per day if you are hiking, the day is hot or the trail is exposed to direct sunlight. Dehydration can happen to hikers even in fall and winter due to low humidity. Bottled water is available for purchase at the visitor center. This is the only location where drinking water is available within Red Rock Canyon. Water in natural springs has not been tested and should be left for use by wildlife.

#### **Protective gear**

For hiking, select shoes that provide a comfortable fit, ankle stability and protection against cactus spines. Wear clothes that provide protection against the sun, wind and

cold temperatures. Dressing in layers is recommended since fall and winter can bring changeable weather. Rain, hail and snow flurries may occur during winter months, especially in February and March.

#### **Desert dwellers**

Watch where you put your hands and feet. Rattlesnakes, scorpions or venomous spiders may be sheltered behind boulders or under rocks and shrubs. Do not touch, collect or try to kill these animals.

### **General safety**

Let friends or family members know where you are going and what time you expect to be back. Don't rely on cell phones during your visit as coverage in the area can be unreliable or non-existent, especially within canyons. Leave your valuables at home. If you leave your car, take your purse or backpack with you and lock your doors. Never leave packages in plain sight where they may tempt someone to break in to your vehicle. In an emergency call 911 or 702-293-8998.

• RED ROCK CANYON







Most of these public lands are located in 12 western states. The agency manages a wide variety of resources on these lands including energy and minerals; timber; wild horse and burro populations; fish and wildlife habitat; wilderness areas; and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites.

Vast and varied, these lands offer outdoor enthusiasts unparalleled recreational opportunities and for others, these special places are a sanctuary for rest and solitude. As managers and stewards, the mission of the Bureau of Land Management is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of these public lands for the

## **Bureau of Land Management**

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM), AN AGENCY WITHIN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ADMINISTERS APPROXIMATELY ONE-EIGHTH OF THE LAND IN THE UNITED STATES.

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is a part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System: a diverse program that incorporates National Scenic and Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Areas, and National Monuments and Conservation Areas, to name a few. The mission of the Conservation System is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for present and future generations of Americans. This 27 million acre Conservation System is said to be the most innovative

use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

U.S. land-management program in the last 50 years, joining together the crown jewels of the BLM's cultural, natural and scientific assets.

FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AREAS AND A COMPLETE LIST OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BLM MANAGED PUBLIC LAND, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.BLM.GOV. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RED ROCK CANYON, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.NV.BLM.GOV/REDROCKCANYON.

## FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON - Making a Difference for 25 years

THE MISSION OF THE FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON IS THE PROTECTION AND ENRICHMENT OF RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA AND THE PUBLIC LANDS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA.

Friends, a volunteer-driven membership organization, was founded 25 years ago and has been an active partner of the Bureau of Land Management since 1984. Friends is a non-profit 501 (3)(c) organization with members in twenty three states and four countries.

Through the continuing commitment of members and volunteers, *Friends* this past year contributed more than 18,100 volunteer hours and more than \$105,000 in financial support which directly benefits Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Our volunteer members are involved in a wide variety of important

activities to protect and preserve Red Rock Canyon such as: graffiti removal, trails improvement and restoration, native plant propagation and elimination of invasive plant species, volunteer event management, providing visitor information and personal contact as well as trash removal.

Friends members and volunteers are happy to partner with the Bureau of Land Management to assure your visit is safe and educational, and that you leave with a sincere appreciation for this unique National Conservation Area.

TO JOIN OR LEARN MORE ABOUT FRIENDS OF RED

ROCK CANYON VISIT

WWW ERIENDS OF REDROCK CANYON ORG

WWW.FRIENDSOFREDROCKCANYON.ORG



## **Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association**

THE MISSION OF RED ROCK CANYON INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION (THE INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION) IS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL, EDUCATIONAL AND INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) BY PROVIDING MATERIALS AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE AN UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF THE NATURAL HISTORY, CULTURAL HISTORY, AND SCIENCES OF RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.

The Interpretive Association was founded in 1988, at the request of the BLM, to provide fund-raising capabilities for the support of outreach programs. The organization began with two employees operating a tiny retail space at the visitor center. Today, The Interpretive Association has more than 50 employees serving three federal agencies.

Leading interpretive hikes and programs, managing the scenic drive wayside sign project, operating the Red Rock Canyon Gift and Book Store, administering the fee collection program and offering the highly successful "Desert Fossils" interpretive program for local seniors are some of the services provided by The Interpretive Association.

The Interpretive Association continues to increase its commitment to the BLM by facilitating special projects such as Red Springs restoration and creating new exhibits for the visitor center. The Interpretive Association also coordinates the award winning Mojave Max desert tortoise education program.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RED ROCK CANYON
INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.REDROCKCANYONLV.ORG.

The Interpretive Association is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation.



KEYSTONE VISITOR GUIDE



## Why

#### are the Rocks Red?

More than 600 million years ago, the land that would become Red Rock Canyon was the bottom of a deep ocean basin. Over time, changing land and sea levels resulted in the deposition of both ocean and continental sediments that became the gray limestone found at Red Rock Canyon today. About 180 million years ago, a giant sand dune field formed over what became the Western United States. Powerful winds shifted the sands back and forth, forming angled lines in the sand. Over time, the sheer weight of the layers of sand compressed into stone. This formation, locally known as Aztec Sandstone, is quite hard and forms the cliffs of Red Rock Canyon. Exposure to the elements caused some of the ironbearing minerals to oxidize. This oxidizing process can be more easily thought of as a "rusting of the sand," which resulted in red, orange and tan colored rocks.

**Photo: Calico Basin** by Javier Sanchez

## **Petroglyphs and Pictographs**

AS YOU HIKE THE TRAILS AND EXPLORE RED ROCK CANYON, YOU MAY SEE IMAGES CARVED OR PAINTED ON THE CANYON WALLS OR ON BOULDERS ALONG THE ESCARPMENT. THESE IMAGES ARE CALLED PETROGLYPHS AND PICTOGRAPHS AND SOME OF THEM MAY BE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD. THE PRIMARY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TYPES, AS DESCRIBED BY ARCHEOLOGISTS, IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WERE CREATED.

Petroglyphs were pecked (scraped and ground) onto the surface of the rock. Usually the dark layer that covers the rock, called the patina or varnish, was broken away to allow the lighter unweathered rock to show through. Artists also used non-varnished rock, soft sedimentary rocks where elements were cut or incised. The reasons for selecting unvarnished rocks are unknown, but these types of petroglyphs are often found in association with rock shelters.

Pictographs, or paintings and drawings on rocks, are less common since these images have a greater likelihood of fading or weathering away. The paint used for pictographs consisted of pigment, a binder and a vehicle. The pigment was the paint's color. In the Southwest, red, white, orange and black are the most common colors, but other colors such as blue, green, purple and pink occasionally occur.

Unfortunately, no detailed studies of paint composition have taken place; indeed, few have been completed elsewhere. Consequently, the materials used for binding also are largely unknown. Without compositional studies the answers to these questions will remain a mystery.

Pictographs and petroglyphs are a fragile part of the past

and are easily damaged. Because we know very little about the composition of the paints, preservation is critical. The numbers of pictographs are decreasing each year, spurring the need for their study and conservation. To keep petroglyphs and pictographs pristine, please do not touch the rock art because contact with the oils in skin will damage them. Freely take photographs and make sketches, but rubbings are forbidden. Individuals witnessing vandalism are urged to report their observations to the BLM at the visitor center. Provide a description of the individuals and their license plate number, if possible. All of us share a concern for protecting these cultural resources, and we here in southern Nevada can be proud of having one of the most successful public programs for fostering the preservation of rock art sites.



#### Wild Horses and Burros

FOR MANY VISITORS, A TRIP TO RED ROCK CANYON IS A CHANCE TO SEE WILD BURROS AND WILD HORSES.

Wild horses primarily live south of State Route 160. The majority of burros live north of State Route 160. They are most often seen between Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and the community of Blue Diamond.

Feeding encourages these animals to congregate on roadways where many have been killed and injured by vehicles. Each year people are injured by burros as they try to feed or pet these animals. Feeding burros also causes them to lose their natural fear of roads and cars. Every year both burros and humans die from burro and automobile collisions due to this adaptation.

Wild horses and burros are protected by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. People feeding, attempting to feed, riding, attempting to ride, handling, or otherwise harassing or disturbing wild horses or burros are subject to a citation.



#### TO OBSERVE THESE BEAUTIFUL WILD ANIMALS SAFELY:

- PICK A SAFE PLACE TO STOP AND PULL COMPLETELY OFF THE ROADWAY.
- OBSERVE THE WILD HORSES AND BURROS FROM A DISTANCE. THE SAFEST PLACE IS FROM YOUR CAR.
- DRIVE CAREFULLY AND BE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU SEE ANIMALS ON OR NEAR THE ROAD. THEY MAY STEP OUT IN FRONT OF YOUR CAR UNEXPECTEDLY.
- REFRAIN FROM THE TEMPTATION TO FEED OR WATER THESE HARDY DESERT CREATURES.
- IF YOU HAVE FOOD IN AN OPEN CONTAINER, SEAL IT IF A HORSE OR BURRO APPROACHES YOU.

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## **Hiking Trail Descriptions**

6. WHITE ROCK - WILLOW SPRINGS

TRAIL NAME LEVELS OF DIFFICULTY AND GAIN APPROXIMATE ROUND-TRIP TIME AND DISTANCE

1. MOENKOPI Easy 300 ft [90 m] 1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km]

This trail starts to the west of the visitor center near a weather station. It offers panoramic views of the Calico Hills, the Spring Mountains and La Madre Mountains.

2. CALICO HILLS Easy - Moderate 400 ft [120 m] 1.5 - 3.5 hours • 2 - 6 mi [3.2-9.6km]

This trail can be accessed by parking at either Calico I, Calico II or near the entrance station. This trail offers access to sport climbing areas and the best close-up views of the Calico Hills.

3. CALICO TANKS Moderate 450 ft [140 m] 2 hours • 2.5 mi [4 km]

This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot. It winds through a wash and there may be seasonal water present in a natural tank [tinaja] at the end.

4. TURTLEHEAD PEAK Strenuous 2,000 ft [600 m] 3.5 - 4.5 hours • 5 mi [8 km]

This trail starts at the Sandstone Quarry parking lot and follows the shoulder of the peak to the top [6,324 ft / 1,927 m]. The trail is intermittent and composed of loose rock.

5. KEYSTONE THRUST Moderate 400 ft [120m] 1.5 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km]

This trail is accessed from the upper White Rock Spring parking lot. It takes you to the most significant geologic feature of Red Rock Canyon - the Keystone Thrust.

This trail starts at either the upper White Rock Spring parking lot or at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. Watch for wildlife that rely on these year-round springs.

7. WHITE ROCK / LA MADRE SPRING LOOP Moderate 890 ft [270 m] 3.5 hours • 6 mi [9.6 km]

This trail can be started at three places: the upper White Rock Spring parking lot, the Lost Creek Trail parking lot or Willow Springs Picnic Area. The north side of White Rock is one of the best areas for viewing bighorn sheep. You can connect to the La Madre Spring Trail to see a year-round spring.

Easy-Moderate 200 ft [60 m]

8. LOST CREEK - CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m] 55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km]

This moderately easy trail is a wonderful place to explore because of the variety of plant life and a number of cultural sites. Depending on the season, there may be a waterfall [January - March.] Also look for a pictograph and an agave roasting pit site. [Combination rocky, uneven terrain and boardwalk trail.]

2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km]

9. WILLOW SPRINGS LOOP Easy 200 ft [60 m] 1.25 hours • 1.5 [2.4 km]

This trail can be started at either the Willow Springs Picnic Area or Lost Creek Trail parking lot. The trail passes several pictograph and agave roasting pit sites.

10. LA MADRE SPRING Moderate 400 ft [120 m] 2 hours • 3.3 mi [5.2 km]

This trail starts at the Willow Springs Picnic Area. The first segment involves walking up part of the 4x4 Rocky Gap Road. These springs are a good place to watch for wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep.

11. SMYC Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 2.2 mi [3.5 km]

This trail can be accessed from either the Lost Creek or Ice Box Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.

12. ICE BOX CANYON Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 2.6 mi [4.1 km]

The parking lot for this trail is at mile 8 on the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. This trail crosses open desert then enters the canyon. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling where there may be seasonal waterfalls [January - March].

13. DALE'S Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2.5 hours • 4.4 mi [7 km]

This trail can be accessed from either the Ice Box Canyon or Pine Creek Canyon trails. It follows the terrain at the base of the escarpment and connects the two trails.

14. PINE CREEK CANYON Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km]

This trail takes you across the open desert, past an old homestead site and into the canyon. You may find seasonal waterfalls. Unimproved trails in the canyon require some tricky rock scrambling.

15. FIRE ECOLOGY Easy 200 ft [60 m] 55 minutes • 0.75 mi [1.2 km]

This trail branches off the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It is a short, figure eight trail that goes through a stand of Ponderosa Pine where a controlled burn took place.

16. OAK CREEK CANYON Easy - Moderate 200 ft [60 m] 1.5 hours • 2 mi [3.2 km]

To access this trailhead, take the Oak Creek turnoff from the 13-Mile Scenic Drive onto a dirt road. The trail then heads through open desert to the mouth of the canyon. Unimproved trails lead deeper into the canyon. Oak Creek is also accessible from State Route 159.

17. ARNIGHT Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 1.5 hours • 2.4 mi [3.8 km]

This trail can be started at the Oak Creek Canyon parking lot or by hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail. It connects the Oak Creek parking lot with the end loop of the Pine Creek Canyon Trail.

18. KNOLL Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2.5 hours • 3.5 mi [5.6 km]

The shortest and easiest way to access this trail is by taking the Oak Creek Canyon Trail. This trail links the upper section of the Arnight Trail with the Oak Creek Canyon Trail, following the base of the escarpment.

19. FIRST CREEK CANYON Easy - Moderate 300 ft [90 m] 2 hours • 3 mi [4.8 km]

This trailhead is on State Route 159 [W. Charleston Blvd.] 2.6 miles [4.1 km] southwest of the exit to the 13-Mile Scenic Drive. The trail leads to the mouth of the canyon. Seasonal streams and waterfalls can be found deep in the canyon on unimproved trails [January - March.]



## Page [8] Red Rock Canyon **Contact Information** www.nv.blm.gov/redrockcanyon **Emergency or Fire** [702] 293-8932 or 911 **BLM Southern Nevada District Office** [702] 515-5000 **Red Rock Visitor Center** [702] 515-5350 **Climbing Permits** [702] 515-5050 Gift & Book Store [702] 515-5379 Friends of Red Rock Canyon [702] 515-5360 **Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association** Organized Hikes [702] 515-5367 This publication was made available through a partnership with Bureau of Land Management, Friends of Red Rock Canyon and Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association. BLM/NV/EA/GI-10/01+1793 Photo: Sheep Together (Ovis canadensis) by Lois Dohra

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## **Hiking Map**



† † Restrooms





**Picnic Area** 

## **Hike Ratings**

Ratings are based on the general ability of a person who hikes frequently. Your ability may differ from the ratings standard used at Red Rock Canyon. Your ability may also be affected by weather, the condition and steepness of the trail, having enough water and physical condition on a given day, among other things.







Generally, lots of uphill sections (and later downhill); possibly more than 1,000 feet of elevation gain; double digit mileage and/or difficult terrain and rock scrambling.

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#### **Moderate:**

Strenuous:

Uphill sections include up to 1,000 feet of elevation gain; single digit mileage; uneven terrain and some rock scrambling.

#### Easy:

Like a walk in the city, but on uneven terrain. (Not guaranteed to seem easy if you are not used to trail hiking.)

#### **Combinations:**

Listed as easy-moderate, moderate-strenuous and so on.

RED ROCK CANYON